## Message Text

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**ACTION EA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 /073 W

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R 241142Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3046

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

USSAG

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 2076

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LA

SUBJ: CHANGE IN STATUS OF VIETNAMESE EMBASSY

**REF: VIENTIANE 2040** 

- 1. AMBASSADOR THUY (SOUTH VIETNAM) HAS INFORMED ME THAT HIS TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING WAS AS HE HAD ANTICIPATED ON THE SUBJECT OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF THE GVN REPRESENTATION IN LAOS TO THAT OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.
- 2. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THUY THAT THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA WAS CHANGING AND THAT THE PRG NOW CONTROLLED SIX OR SEVEN PROVINCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND MIGHT WELL ESTABLISH A CAPITAL AT HUE. IN RECENT WEEKS, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN LAOS RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM. HE HAD RESISTED FOR A YEAR PRESSURES CONFIDENTIAL

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TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG AND HAD NO REPEAT NO INTENTION

OF RECOGNIZING PRG AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE HOWEVER IF THUY WERE TO BE RECALLED AND THUS CREATE A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT IN SAIGON WHERE LAOS IS REPRESENTED BY A CHARGE.

- 3. THUY REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS TO BALANCE THE REPRESENTATION OF THE GVN WITH THAT OF THE DRV. HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THERE WERE MANY THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE IN LAOS WHOSE LOYALTY AND STATUS WERE BEST MAINTAINED BY A GVN AMBASSADOR. THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED OBLIQUELY TO THIS ARGUMENT NOTING THAT A GVN EMBASSY WOULD BE MAINTAINED TO TAKE CARE OF THE INTERESTS OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS AND HE ALLUDED TO THE NECESSITY FOR ALL EMBASSIES TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN LAO POLITICAL AFFAIRS THUS HINTING THAT HE INTENDED TO CIRCUMSCRIBE ANY SCHEMES BY THE DRV TO PREY ON THE VIETNAMESE HERE.
- 4. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THUY THAT HE HAD GREAT PERSONAL LIKING FOR HIM AND THAT HE REGRETTED THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MADE THIS MOVE ADVISABLE.
- 5. THUY TELLS ME THAT HE HAS NOT YET REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION TO SAIGON AND DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO FOR A DAY OR TWO WHILE HE SEEKS TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION ON THE VIENTIANE SIDE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE BEST IF EMBASSY SAIGON DID NOT DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH THE GVN UNTIL WE ARE SURE THAT THUY HAS REPORTED ON THIS MATTER. WHITEHOUSE

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